



Our Place of *Hope & Promise*

Each month we will spotlight one of the many ways Blessed Sacrament is growing, serving, giving.

Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach

September 2024

Main Work

Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach's mission is to relieve hunger, overcome homelessness, address addiction and provide outreach and advocacy in Lincoln. For over 30 years, Blessed Sacrament has organized a group of volunteers who cook and serve a meal for the homeless and working poor on the second Friday of every even numbered month.

Did You Know?

"When we started there wasn't a kitchen. There was a room that a local businessman made available for homeless people just to have a place to go -- to do their laundry and to use the restroom," said Maureen Mattern, who coordinates the volunteers from Blessed Sacrament. "We were one of the first groups to bring food down in crock pots and serve it on paper plates just on the weekends." Gradually it has grown into today's Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach.

"Serving the homeless and working poor makes us more aware of our blessings and grateful for all that we have been given."

- Maureen Mattern

How can you be involved?

A sign-up genius email is sent out 10-14 days before the scheduled date. Those who sign up have the option to help with different parts of the meal, serve food or clean up afterwards.

"This used to all be done over the phone, and it took two or three nights to get everything in place." Maureen shared.

On the Friday's they serve, the group meets around 5 p.m. to prep the meal. Once the meal is ready, they lead the crowd in a mealtime prayer and open up the food line. It takes about an hour to get everyone through the line. Afterwards, they clean up and are usually done within an hour of closing the line.

"The trickiest part of the night is judging the amount of food needed", said Maureen. "In June, we had sloppy joes left over, but in August we had to look through the refrigerators for additional food we could serve to make it through the whole hour."



Impact in our Parish and Community

Maureen shared, "While we have had many loving and beloved people move into and out of our group, the core is the same and we love getting together every other month. We love the camaraderie, and also love chatting with the clients who come through the line, asking about their day and plans for the evening. It is a very rewarding experience. Serving the homeless and working poor makes us more aware of our blessings and grateful for all that we have been given. As a team, we all learn a little humility, charity and trust -- all things we need to grow in the spiritual life."